

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for selecting a cell-based channel coding scheme, from a plurality of channel coding schemes, for use in initiating communication with subscriber units in a cell of a communication system, wherein the selection of the cell-based channel coding scheme is dependent on information relating to channel coding schemes previously used for communications with subscriber units in the cell.

2. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 also further comprising the step of recording the channel coding scheme used for communication with at least a proportion of subscriber units in the cell.

3. (original) The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the channel coding scheme used for each block of data in communications with subscriber units is recorded.

4. (original) The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the channel coding scheme in use at the end of a communication with a subscriber unit is recorded.

5. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of claims 2-4~~ claim 2 wherein the cell-based channel coding scheme is selected based on the recorded data.

6. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the cell-based channel coding scheme is selected based on the channel coding scheme most commonly used in communication with subscriber units in the cell.

7. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein an uplink cell-based channel coding scheme and a downlink cell-based channel coding scheme are selected separately.

8. (original) The method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the uplink cell-based channel coding scheme is selected is dependent on information relating to channel coding schemes used for uplink communications from subscriber units in the cell.

9. (original) The method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the downlink cell-based channel coding scheme is selected is dependent on information relating to channel coding schemes used for downlink communications to subscriber units in the cell.

10. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 comprising the step of determining that initiation of a communication to a subscriber unit using the cell-selected channel coding scheme is unsuccessful and selecting a more robust channel coding scheme for a further attempt at initiating communication with that subscriber unit.

11. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

recording a final channel coding scheme used for a communication with a subscriber unit,
and

using said final channel coding scheme instead of the cell-based channel coding scheme for initiating a communication with the subscriber unit within a predetermined period from the finish of the previous communication.

12. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method for communicating with a subscriber unit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of allocating an initial channel coding scheme to the communication, the initial channel coding scheme being a channel coding scheme selected in accordance with one of claims 1-11; and altering the channel coding scheme during the communication based on radio condition information.

13. (canceled).

14. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising a processor for selecting a cell-based channel coding scheme, from a plurality of channel coding schemes, for use in initiating communication with subscriber units in a cell of a communication system wherein the selection of the cell-based channel coding scheme is dependent on information relating to channel coding schemes previously used for communications with subscriber units in the cell.

15. (original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 14 also comprising a memory for storing information relating to channel coding schemes used for communications with subscriber units in the cell.

16. (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in one of claims 14 ~~or 15~~ wherein the apparatus is a packet control unit.

17. (canceled).

18. (canceled).